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PRESS RELEASE

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City partners with HGCD on exploratory Ellenburger aquifer groundwater well

Kerrville, Texas (Sept. 22, 2020) – Kerrville City Council members on Tuesday held a groundbreaking to celebrate a successful partnership with the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District (HGCD) on an exploratory groundwater well in the Ellenburger Aquifer located in southeast Kerrville. The new well, located near Loop 534 and Legion Drive, was drilled and tested over summer 2020 based off geological research conducted by HGCD volunteers after several years of extensive research.

The successful well was assessed to produce more than 700 gallons of fresh groundwater per minute and will be the third most productive well site in the City of Kerrville's water production system. On Tuesday the City Council also initiated a contact to connect the well site to the city's distribution system over the next year. The partnership effort with HGCD and the further diversification and bolstering of the city's water supply were key initiatives identified in the community's Kerrville 2050

Comprehensive Plan and the Long Range Water Supply Plan adopted by the 2019-2020 City Council.

The City of Kerrville currently obtains its potable water supplies from a diverse set of sources such as surface water (Guadalupe River), groundwater from local aquifers, as well as the utilization of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) of surface water. In fact, the city has more than one billion gallons of stored surface water in the ASR system. The city has also proactively utilized reclaimed water for over 20 years to responsibly relieve demand for potable water being used for irrigation purposes. These collective efforts have been a major reason why Kerrville was not required to move into drought restrictions during the warm summer months experienced during 2019 or 2020 like many other area communities.

While these supply sources are more than adequate for Kerrville's typical existing water needs, the recently adopted Long Range Water Supply Plan identified that the current supply could fall short of future demands from projected population and business growth in coming decades if the community were to experience an extremely severe drought like what occurred in the 1950s. One of the main goals of the city's Long Range Water Supply Plan is to identify, evaluate and select water supply strategies that could be implemented by Kerrville to meet future water supply needs. Developing groundwater wells in the Ellenburger Aquifer was one of the top strategies identified in the plan to provide the greatest future water supply benefits to Kerrville while minimizing construction costs and permitting and implementation obstacles. The city plans to continue to partner with HGCD on additional exploration of the Ellenburger with the intent of putting even more large wells into production.

“We have a strong water plan for Kerrville, but this will strengthen that plan,” Kerrville Mayor Bill Blackburn said. “We have to look far down the road to plan adequately for our water needs.”

To review the city’s Long Range Water Supply Plan, please visit https://www.kerrilletx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35169/2018_Report_Kerrville_Long_Range_Water_Plan_Final.



Pictured from left are City of Kerrville Mayor Bill Blackburn and City Councilmembers Judy Eychner, Delayne Sigerman, Kim Clarkson and Gary Cochrane.